and illustration, and accordingly we find that St. James's Church in that city is commenced with, and a promise of plans, elevations, sections, and details to be given in a separate publication. We have next a notice of St. Catherine's Hospital, at Brightbow, from a paper read by R. Woodford, B.A., before the Bristol Architectural Society, of which that gentleman is the secretary. This engraving

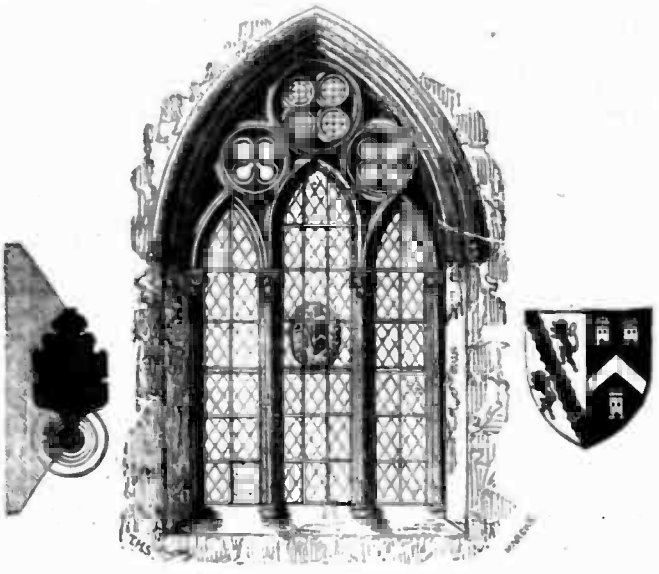
of the seal, curiously enough, bears the figure of St. Mary Magdalen, and not that of its patroness, and the inscription round it describes it as the seal of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, at Brightbow; but still it is maintained that the reference was to St. Catherine's, and that there was no other hospital in that locality.

In the next article, on Boyton Church, Wiltshire, we have an interesting description, from which we may quote the following:—

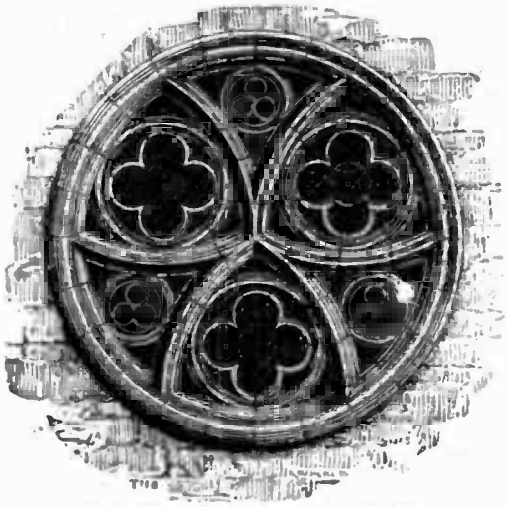
"The disposition of its parts is somewhat singular; the tower being situated on the north side of the nave, between a small chapel on its eastern side, and the sacristy upon the west. On the south side is an interesting mortuary chapel, opposite to, but considerably larger than that already mentioned on the north. The principal dimensions of the church are as follow:—the chancel is in length 33 feet 6 inches, and 19 feet in width; the nave, 49 feet long by 22 wide; the north chapel, 13 feet by 18; the south chapel, 26 by 18; the tower, 10 feet 6 inches by 11 feet, and the sacristy, 12 feet 6 by 10.

"The chancel has, at its east end, a three-light perpendicular window, the principal lights 5-foiled, with a slightly drop arch. The other windows are three small Early English lancet-headed ones on the north side, and two similar ones on the south. These have all drop arches on the interior. In the S. wall of the chancel are a piscina, and sedilia for priest, deacon, and sub-deacon, all Early English. The former has a trefoil arch, with a drip moulding, a circular orifice, and no shelf; the latter has likewise trefoil arches of equal height, with drips. The seats are in three gradations."

The two windows, engravings of which we here subjoin, refer to the Giffard chapel, which is the mortuary chapel on the south side above spoken of.



EAST WINDOW OF THE SOUTH CHAPEL.



WEST WINDOW OF THE SOUTH CHAPEL.

"In its principal features—a three-light window on the eastern side, and a circular one on the west—it is difficult to say whether the characteristics of Early English or of Decorated predominate. The mouldings, particularly those of the former, are Early English in their form, whilst the beautiful tracery of the latter belong to the latter style. The centre light of the east window is higher and wider than the others; small shafts with bases and capitals are attached (in the interior) to the mullions and jambs, and from the capitals spring lancet arches to the side lights; the middle light has a stilted equilateral arch.

"The circular window is of a size and beauty rarely met with in small churches. It is twelve feet in diameter, and the lower part comes within a few feet of the external ground. A drip on the exterior runs round the whole.

"On the south side of this chapel are three lancet windows, the centre one modernised; and beneath the easternmost a piscina and three sedilia, all of Early English work, and nearly resembling those in the chancel. The piscina has an octagonal orifice, beneath a trefoil arch, canopied, and is without a shelf; the sedilia have seats in gradation, whilst the heads are of equal height.

"It should be observed that the window towards the west in this south wall, as well as that at the south-west corner of the chancel, is what is now known commonly as a lycnoscope: so that if the opinion formerly published by the Camden Society, in reference to the object of these windows, be correct, an Easter sepulchre must have stood in the south chapel as well as in the chancel; and this would not appear unlikely, as the three sedilia sufficiently intimate that full services were performed in the chapel. But if the real intention of these low windows was not to enable persons from the exterior of the church to watch the lights burning at the sepulchre, but, as others have suggested, to allow lepers to witness the elevation of the host, another thing in this south chapel would be accounted for: the north side of the chapel, besides the pier and arches separating it from the nave, exhibits, at its eastern extremity, a doorway, at a height in the wall, which formerly gave access to the rood-loft—the staples for the hinges remain in the stone. A part of the wall on the eastern side of this doorway has been splayed away in such a manner as to admit of a glimpse into the rood-loft, from the window in question; and thus probably the rood itself was rendered visible to persons on the outside of the church. The same object would be gained likewise by the lycnoscope in the chancel."

(*To be resumed.*)

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—You may remember that an Act of Parliament was passed for the regulation of weights and measures, in which it was enacted, that the only legal stone-weight should be that of fourteen pounds. It wished to be as a law of the Medes and Persians; but the popular habit was found to be so strong, that, it is said, one of the most active legislators, almost the father of the measure, upon being shewn by the graziers, salesmen, and butchers that they could not buy and sell by the stone of fourteen pounds, was compelled to answer, "Well, you must not say so much a stone, but you may say, so much for eight pounds."

The Metropolitan Buildings Bill errs in the same way, and makes the uncalled-for attempt to change the meaning of popular words and the terms sanctioned by popular habit. Thus, the word *alley* is, in future, to mean, not a long, narrow passage, but an avenue as wide as Watling-street, and through which a whole railroad train might pass without touching passengers two abreast on each side; and the term *first floor* is, in future, to mean the cellar; and that best part of a house, "a genteel first floor," is to be named the third floor.

Here, definition is attempted, but where legal preciseness of language is not only desirable, but definition is really called for, there it has been forgotten, as, for instance,—What is in future to be the strict legal meaning of the terms "warehouse," and "dwelling-place?" These are of large importance as respects the operation of the bill upon every description of building; and as definiteness of language is of much moment, it is to be hoped that clauses 20 and 23 will be so worded as that they may be readily understood by common people, for as to the first, it is absolutely incomprehensible, excepting that one may make a tolerably shrewd guess as to its meaning; and as to the latter, the first passage is so obscure, that it may even be held to interdict the letting for hire any house which has a dressing-closet, and almost every fourth-rate house that has ever been built; and whether the term "dog-kennel" is to prevent my lady Marchioness keeping a lap dog is by no means clear.

I now have reached one of the most momentous provisions of the whole bill,—the future system of rating.

The present system is, to rate by the superficial extent; to restrain by the height. The new system is, to rate by the height; to restrain by the superficial extent; the one being exactly the reverse of the other. The gentlemen who drew the bill doubtless believe that they have irrefutable reasons wherewith to justify the reversal of a practice of three quarters of a century; and under which they, I, and many others have been born and grown grey; but they can surely have never tried, upon paper, the working out of their principle, nor can they have recollected that the lode-stars of the mea-